GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:248
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
DISCREPANCIES IN POPULATION POLICY
B.K. PARTHASARATHI;GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission has urged the Government to explain certain discrepancies in population policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to review the National Family Welfare Programme to ensure that there is no violation of the spirit behind the policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)&(b): A notice was received from National Human Rights Commission on a complaint filed by the `Centre for Women`s Development Studies` in respect of Population Policy.It has been alleged in the complaint that the letter and spirit of the National Population Policy(NPP) is being violated in various ways and NHRC has been requested to taken cognizance of the violation and to direct States to strike down the provisions in their State Population Policy which violate the principles of NPP 2000.

(c): The Department of Family Welfare is of the view thatdisincentives proposed in some State Population Policies require a longer national consensus. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has, in his letter to Chief Ministers of all States/UTs dated 2nd August, 2002 emphasized the need for having a common conceptual framework while formulating State Population Policies and Strategies. Government of India has already constituted a `National Level Resource Committee` vide order dated 8th March, 2002 to provide technical support to State Governments in formulation of State Population Policies in consonance with letter and spirit of the National Population Policy, 2000.